



# NJ VINE: Giving Crime Victims Immediate Information about an Offender's Custody Status

**F**or many crime victims, the ordeal continues long after their initial victimization.

Even if the offender who victimized them is captured, successfully prosecuted and sent to jail or state prison, many crime victims continue to live in fear that the perpetrator may one day return to harm them in some way.

For such victims, it is important to know if and when the offender who targeted them is released from a correctional facility.

With that in mind, the Attorney General's Office spearheaded a new initiative in 2005 called NJ VINE — Victim Information and Notification Everyday — whereby crime victims can keep abreast of the custody status of offenders housed in any of New Jersey's county jails, state adult correctional facilities and most juvenile facilities.

NJ VINE works one of two ways. Victims can call a toll-free number (1-877-VINE-4-NJ) for updates on the custody status of offenders who victimized them, and/or they can register a telephone number or numbers where they can be automatically notified if an offender is released or transferred.

NJ VINE is a software system designed to provide information and notification regarding the incarceration status of criminal offenders. The system operates through an interface with state-of-the-art computers that function as the New Jersey correctional system's central data base.

The Division of Criminal Justice within the Attorney General's Office launched the NJ VINE system in 19 counties in early December 2005, with the remaining two counties scheduled to be on line by year's end or early in 2006.

If a crime victim wishes to participate in the automatic notification aspect of NJ VINE, he or she must register by providing a telephone number or numbers — as well as a four-digit personal identification number (PIN). Crime victims can register by calling, toll-free, from a touch-tone phone to 1-877-846-3465. The victim's contact and PIN information are input into the system, but kept confi-

dential. Offenders do not know when their victims have been registered with NJ VINE.

At regular intervals, NJ VINE automatically updates prisoner status information and, if victims have registered for it, attempts to notify them by phone of any changes in their specific offender's custody status. If NJ VINE is unable to contact a victim within 24 hours, a letter is generated by the system and sent to the victim by the appropriate County Prosecutor's Victim Witness Coordinator.

The automatic notification feature of NJ VINE eliminates the need for crime victims to

constantly call a County Prosecutor's Office to determine an offender's custody status.

NJ VINE is a cooperative effort involving not only the Attorney General's Division of Criminal Justice, but the following agencies as well: the State Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy, the Department of Corrections, the 21 County Prosecutor's Offices, New Jersey State Police, the New Jersey Parole Board and the Juvenile Justice Commission. It was one more example in 2005 of the Attorney General's commitment to protecting the safety, and enhancing the peace of mind, of crime victims throughout New Jersey.

*Shown here is a poster for posting in help centers. A similar card, brochure and Web site are also part of the awareness campaign.*

New Jersey  
**VINE**

**Providing  
crime victims  
peace-of-mind  
by knowing  
where their  
offenders are.**

**Victim Information & Notification Everyday**

New Jersey VINE provides  
Statewide Victim Assistance  
and Notification 24 hours  
a day, 7 days a week.

This important  
information is only  
a phone call away.

**1-877-VINE-4-NJ**  
(1-877-846-3465)  
Call today for peace of mind

State of New Jersey  
Office of the Attorney General

[www.victimwitness.nj.gov/vine](http://www.victimwitness.nj.gov/vine)